

TOPIC 1 SELECTED TEACHINGS

Leadership and Discipleship Manual Excerpts (*Teaching No. 1*)

EVERY GREAT CHRISTIAN LEADER HAS A CLEAR VISION FOR THEIR LIFE AND CHURCH

The LORD said to Habakkuk, “Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it.” (Habakkuk 2:2)

A CLEAR VISION FROM GOD HELPS TO KEEP A LEADER FOCUSED AND DISCIPLINED. A God given vision will help a leader to live a life of fruitfulness.

The book of Proverbs says, “Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law.” (Proverbs 29:18) NKJV

The King James Version says: “Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.” (Proverbs 29:18)

GOD HAS UNIQUELY CREATED EVERY PERSON (Psalm 139:13-16) AND HAS A UNIQUE PLAN AND DESTINY FOR EVERY BELIEVER’S LIFE. The Apostle Paul wrote, “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10)

AS EVERY BELIEVER FINDS AND FOLLOWS GOD’S PLAN FOR THEIR LIFE, THE ENTIRE BODY OF CHRIST IS BENEFITTED AND BEGINS TO GROW. The Apostle Paul wrote, “from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself IN LOVE.” (Ephesians 4:16)

FOR THIS REASON IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT EVERY BELIEVER KNOWS THE WILL OF THE LORD FOR THEIR LIFE AND OPERATES IN THEIR GIFTS AND CALLING (Romans 12:3-8) (1 Corinthians 12:4-7) (1 Corinthians 12:8-11) – Gifts of the Spirit. EVERY BELIEVER HAS A MINISTRY AND A CALLING

As we find and follow God’s plan for our life and church, others will be impacted in two ways:

- 1) Unbelievers will come to Christ through our life and testimony and church meetings, and
- 2) We will help to encourage other believers to fulfil their God given destiny

It is important that we use our gifts both on a personal level (witnessing to others and encouraging others in our day to day life) and on a corporate level (being connected to the ministries flowing from our church)

Given the ungodly times that we now live in and the imminent return of the Lord, it is imperative that every believer knows the will of God for their life and that all Christian leaders and pastors (those in the five-fold ministry) know the will of God for both their own life and churches. The Apostle Paul wrote, “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” (Ephesians 5:15-17)

EVERY CHURCH LEADER MUST ENSURE THAT THE CHURCH THEY ARE SHEPHERDING HAS A VISION FOR BOTH REACHING THE LOST AND MAKING DISCIPLES, AS WELL AS HAVING A CLEAR VISION AND FOCUS FOR THEIR OWN LIFE

Every leader is uniquely gifted by God. For this reason every leader needs to have a clear vision for both their own life and for their church or ministry. Having a clear vision for their own lives enables church leaders to continually operate in their gifts and calling. In this way they best serve and benefit the church as a whole in all that they do with their life. All great church leaders are good at delegating areas that they are not strong in to others who are more gifted in those areas. Having a clear vision for our church helps our meetings never just to become routine.

All healthy churches need to have a clear overall vision and PURPOSE for all of their meetings:

- 1) To bring the love of God into their communities,
- 2) To evangelise and win people to Christ, and
- 3) To make disciples who will disciple others (to help develop loving Christian communities)

A GOD GIVEN VISION ALSO HELPS LEADERS TO LIVE A DISCIPLINED AND GODLY LIFE. PEOPLE WITHOUT A VISION CAN EASILY MAKE WRONG CHOICES AND HAVE THEIR LIVES AND DREAMS DESTROYED. (1 Peter 5:8) (John 10:10)

ALL CHURCH LEADERS SHOULD HAVE AN ONGOING FOCUS AND VISION FOR REACHING THE LOST WITH THE GOSPEL MESSAGE. GOD'S DESIRE IS THAT NONE WOULD PERISH (Luke 15:1-7)

Jesus Himself said, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

Having a clearly defined vision for our life is a key to preventing the devil from sidetracking us from God's best plan for our life.

HAVING A CLEAR VISION FOR OUR LIFE ALSO HELPS US TO GET THROUGH THOSE TIMES IN OUR LIFE WHEN WE ARE EXPERIENCING EITHER DISCOURAGEMENT OR GREAT TRIALS AND TRIBULATION.

EVERY GOD GIVEN VISION WILL INVOLVE HELPING OTHERS TO FULFILL THEIR OWN GOD GIVEN DESTINY

Jesus Himself said, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45)

Jesus also said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain." (John 12:24)

GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR LIFE IS FAR GREATER THAN WE COULD EVER THINK OR IMAGINE. (Ephesians 3:20) WE MUST COMMIT OUR PLANS TO THE LORD (Proverbs 16:3) AND SEEK HIS VISION FOR OUR LIFE AND CHURCH.

A LEADER OF VISION IS COMMITTED TO FINDING AND FOLLOWING GOD'S PLAN FOR THEIR LIFE AND CHURCH

WITH A VISION > LEADERS CAN PRAYERFULLY SEEK GOD FOR HIS PLANS AND STRATEGIES > AND THEN STEP OUT IN FAITH TO ACT UPON HIS GUIDANCE > RESULTING IN SOULS BEING SAVED AND MATURE DISCIPLES BEING RAISED UP WHO ARE EQUIPPED AND EMPOWERED FOR MINISTRY